



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 20-F-0162

Taylor Amarel  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 78167  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Amarel:

This is an interim response to your September 25, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on October 29, 2019 and assigned it case number 20-F-0162. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances which impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. At least one, if not more of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS) and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 3,083 open requests.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests.

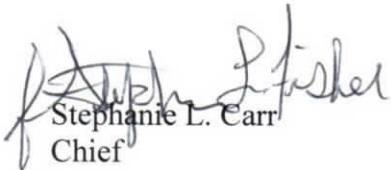
The OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Darrell Williams, is available at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil) to answer any concerns about the foregoing.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

We regret the delay in responding to your request and appreciate your patience. If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Coen at [Michael.e.coen2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Michael.e.coen2.civ@mail.mil) or (571) 372-0413.

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 78167  
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78167-35739216@requests.muckrock.com

20-F-0162

Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense  
FOIA Office  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155

September 25, 2019

This is a follow up to a previous request:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information Act request, copied below, and originally submitted on Aug. 1, 2019. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response.

Thanks for your help, and let me know if further clarification is needed.

Filed via MuckRock.com  
E-mail (Preferred): 78167-35739216@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):  
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PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.

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On Aug. 1, 2019:

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: Mr. David F. Helvey Emails

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

All emails sent to, from, or copied to Mr. David F. Helvey, from June 1, 2019 to Present Day containing any

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of the following non-case-sensitive key-strings: "EB-5", "Hong Kong", "Carrie Lam", "Tear gas", or "protestors".

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Taylor Amarel

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